

## **Rotary Club of Kalamazoo**

October 30, 2017, meeting

Editarian Rebecca Pierce

President Tim Kilmartin called the meeting to order, followed by the singing of the National Anthem and the invocation.

New member Christopher Schram provided a review of current and upcoming arts events. For more details, go to [www.kalamazooarts.com](http://www.kalamazooarts.com).

Visiting Rotarians from Gull Lake, Mount Clemens and California were welcomed and guests who filled out those helpful little blue cards were: Max Belby, guest of Rotarian Jeff K. Ross; Nicki Poer, guest of Rotarian Kristen Chesak; Denny Stults, guest of Rotarian Deb Harris; Yvonne Knutsen; and Sandy Standish, guest of Rotarian Dave Campbell.

President Tim led Rotarians in singing a Halloween-appropriate song: "The Addams Family," complete with the synchronized sound effect of Rotarians' fingers snapping.

Rotarian Jim Bridenstine introduced new member Nathan Smeltzer, a vice president at PNC Bank downtown. Nathan was born in Indiana, raised in Kalamazoo and pursued a career in banking. He said he is, "happily, a student of the school of life." He is the current past president of Sunrise Kiwanis Club, a firefighter with Comstock Fire & Rescue, a soccer player for 37 years and youth soccer club coach. He's married to a behavioral specialist and they live in Galesburg with their 10-week-old son and twin 12-year-old sons.

The group was updated on several charitable efforts and, among these, a check was presented to the Kalamazoo Literacy Council. Rotarian Michael Evans, who accepted the donation on behalf of the Literacy Council, said the money would help train 60 new volunteers to help adults in the community improve their reading, writing and computer literacy skills.

President Tim said District 6360 recognized the club for its significant contributions and noted that there is still time to contribute to the polio eradication initiative. He also mentioned a plan to start a new satellite club. A Nov. 8 meeting at Boatyard Brewing at 5:30 p.m. will focus on that effort.

The club has identified another charitable cause to consider: The Nov. 20 meeting will feature the first of several presentations on human trafficking in Kalamazoo and beyond. “Our goal is to get educated and then figure out what we as the Kalamazoo Rotary Club can do to help,” Tim noted in his email follow-up to the meeting. “Mark your calendars and invite friends you think would like to learn more about this critical issue.”

Happy Bucks time generated many gifts from members to celebrate excellence in the local arts, significant events and accomplishments by relatives and friends.

Rotarian Denise Hartsough informed the club that one of the woman mentors with the STRIVE program had to back out so there is an immediate need for a female volunteer to mentor a Loy Norrix student. Contact Denise if you, or someone you know, can help.

For the program: Membership committee members Steve Charnley and Mary Zoeller came up with a Happy Fifth Monday Funday activity, which featured the creative use of a roll of toilet paper at each table to start conversations and build teams. The program was intended to get people talking – and it certainly did.

**The next meeting, on Monday, Nov. 6, at noon at CityScape, will feature an overview and history of the Michigan State Lottery with Aric Nesbitt, commissioner, Michigan State Lottery.**